

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1-4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently amended) An expression cassette comprising a promoter operably linked to a heterologous IND1 polynucleotide, or a complement thereof, encoding a polypeptide at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:2, wherein introduction of the expression cassette into a plant to suppress IND1 expression results in a plant with delayed fruit dehiscence.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Original) The expression cassette of claim 5, wherein the IND1 polynucleotide comprises positions from about 2765 to about 3361 of SEQ ID NO 1.
- 8 (Cancelled)
9. (Original) The expression cassette of claim 5, wherein the promoter is constitutive.
10. (Original) The expression cassette of claim 5, wherein the promoter is tissue specific.
11. (Original) The expression cassette of claim 10, wherein the promoter is a dehiscence zone specific promoter.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Currently amended) A plant comprising a recombinant expression cassette comprising a promoter operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:2.

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14. (Currently amended) The plant of claim 13, wherein the polynucleotide encoding the IND1 polypeptide is operably linked in the antisense orientation to the promoter ~~in the antisense orientation~~.

15. (Currently amended) The plant of claim 13, wherein the polynucleotide encoding the IND1 polypeptide is operably linked in the sense orientation to the promoter ~~in the sense orientation~~.

16. (Currently amended) The plant of claim 15, wherein the polynucleotide sequence further comprises a second polynucleotide sequence encoding the IND1 polypeptide wherein the second polynucleotide is operably linked in the antisense orientation to a second promoter ~~in the antisense orientation~~.

17. (Original) The plant of claim 13, wherein lignification is reduced in valve margin cells.

18. (Original) The plant of claim 13, wherein the promoter is a dehiscence zone-selective regulatory element.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) A method of delaying fruit dehiscence in a plant, the method comprising suppressing expression of an IND1 nucleic acid in the plant by introducing into the plant a recombinant expression cassette comprising a promoter operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding an IND1 polypeptide at least about ~~70%~~ 95% identical to SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the IND1 polypeptide comprises a basic helix-loop-helix (bHLH) domain.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the IND1 polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:2.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the IND1 polynucleotide comprises positions from about 2765 to about 3361 of SEQ ID NO:1.

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23. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the IND1 polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:1.

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the polynucleotide encoding the IND1 polypeptide is operably linked in the antisense orientation to the promoter ~~in the antisense orientation~~.

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the polynucleotide encoding the IND1 polypeptide is operably linked in the sense orientation to the promoter ~~in the sense orientation~~.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the polynucleotide further comprises a second polynucleotide sequence encoding the IND1 polypeptide wherein the second polynucleotide is operably linked in the antisense orientation to a second promoter ~~in the antisense orientation~~.

27. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein lignification is reduced in valve margin cells.

28. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the promoter is a dehiscence zone-selective regulatory element.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the recombinant expression cassette is introduced into the plant using Agrobacterium.

31-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently amended) An expression cassette comprising a heterologous promoter operably linked to polynucleotide, or a complement thereof, wherein the polynucleotide ~~is at least 65% identical to~~ comprises at least 200 contiguous nucleotides from

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positions 2765 to 3361 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein introduction of the expression cassette into a plant to suppress IND1 expression results in a plant with delayed fruit dehiscence.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently amended) The expression cassette of claim 34, wherein the polynucleotide is comprises at least 500 contiguous nucleotides from positions 2765 to 3361 of SEQ ID NO:1.

37. (Previously presented) The expression cassette of claim 34, wherein the polynucleotide is in a sense orientation with the promoter.

38. (Previously presented) The expression cassette of claim 34, wherein the promoter is constitutive.

39. (Previously presented) The expression cassette of claim 34, wherein the promoter is tissue specific.

40. (Previously presented) The expression cassette of claim 34, wherein the promoter is a dehiscence zone specific promoter.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the plant is a Brassica species.

42. (New) A plant comprising the expression cassette of claim 34.

43. (New) The plant of claim 42, wherein the plant is a Brassica species.

44. (New) A method of delaying fruit dehiscence in a plant, the method comprising suppressing expression of an IND1 nucleic acid in the plant by introducing into the plant an expression cassette comprising a heterologous promoter operably linked to polynucleotide, or a complement thereof, wherein the polynucleotide comprises at least 200 contiguous nucleotides from positions 2765 to 3361 of SEQ ID NO:1.

45. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the polynucleotide comprises at least 500 contiguous nucleotides from positions 2765 to 3361 of SEQ ID NO:1.

46. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the polynucleotide is in an antisense orientation with the promoter.

47. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the polynucleotide is in a sense orientation with the promoter.

48. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the polynucleotide further comprises a second polynucleotide sequence comprising at least 200 contiguous nucleotides from positions 2765 to 3361 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the second polynucleotide is operably linked to a second promoter in the antisense orientation.

49. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the promoter is constitutive.

50. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the promoter is tissue specific.

51. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the promoter is a dehiscence zone specific promoter.

52. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the plant is a Brassica species.

53. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein lignification is reduced in valve margin cells.

54. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the recombinant expression cassette is introduced into the plant using Agrobacterium.

55. (New) The expression cassette of claim 34, wherein the polynucleotide is in an antisense orientation with the promoter.

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56. (New) The plant of claim 42, wherein the polynucleotide is in a sense orientation with the promoter.

57. (New) The plant of claim 56, wherein the polynucleotide further comprises a second polynucleotide sequence comprising at least 200 contiguous nucleotides from positions 2765 to 3361 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the second polynucleotide is operably linked to a second promoter in the antisense orientation.